



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Genealogy and Local History Section

28 January 2008

**Genealogy and Local History Section
Annual Report 2006-2007**

The Genealogy and Local History Section had 35 section members at the end of the year 2007.

The Standing Committee consists of:

Chair: Ruth Hedegaard

Secretary: Russell Lynch

Treasurer: Janice McFarlane

Information Coordinator: Janet Tomkins

Editor of Newsletter: Elizabeth Melrose assisted by Richard Huws

Committee members 2005-2009: Richard Huws, Elizabeth Melrose, Paul Smart, and Juergen Warmbrunn.

Committee members 2007-2011: Anne Burrows, Lijing Chen, Ruth Hedegaard, Antonio Lechasseur, Gerard Long, Russell Lynch, Janice McFarlane, Wayne Metcalfe, Mattye Laverne Page, Janet Tomkins, Gui Won Lee, and Hsiao-ming Yu

Corresponding members: Gu Yan, Marie-Louise Perron, Susan Lugo

During the year we have been working on various activities and services, including the following items:

Open Session Program

The theme of 2007 program in Durban was *Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word*. The Audiovisual and Multimedia section joined with us to sponsor the program held in two sessions. The sessions had 7 speakers and one video presentation with a combined total of more than 400 attendees. The speakers delivered wonderful presentations! Zhang Hongxia's paper on salvaging the vanishing Li culture was chosen for publication in the IFLA Journal.

Study Tour

Like previous years, our section provided our own study-tour that Mel Thatcher organized. The Genealogy and Local History Section and the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section sponsored an all-day tour on Wednesday, August 22, 2007. The tour included three locations: the Durban Archives Repository, the Killie Campbell Africana Library, and the Hidden



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Years Music Archive. Forty people participated in the tour which also included lunch at the Indian Connection Restaurant.

The Durban Archives Repository is one of three repositories for the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Archives. The Archives are the keepers of the official records of KwaZulu-Natal, dating from colonial government to the present. These include the archives of magistrates, local authorities, and provincial government. The three repositories, situated in Pietermaritzburg, Ulundi, and Durban, are responsible for the preservation of archives and their use by the public. The archivists explained the records that are useful for family history research and answered questions about preservation, ethnic communities, and oral histories.

The Killie Campbell Africana Library and William Campbell Museum is part of Natal University. Killie Campbell (1881-1965) gathered books, manuscripts, and artifacts to preserve for posterity the history of Zululand and Natal. The old Cape Dutch-styled Campbell home *Muckleneuk* stands looking out over spacious gardens with indigenous shrubs and trees, high on Durban's Berea. The artifacts and paintings display the beautiful treasures of South Africa.

The Hidden Years Music Archive is at the Eleanor Bonnar Music Library at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (Howard College Campus). They participate in two projects: the South African Music Project (SAMAP) and the International Library of African Music (ILAM). SAMAP aims to create an online resource on indigenous South African music and associated cultural heritage so as to promote multidisciplinary research into the field of popular music and culture.

Visiting these libraries and repositories allowed WLIC participants to see in person the fascinating collections and services in the Kwa-Zulu Natal area. The exciting developments in South Africa will benefit researchers worldwide.

Section Committee Meetings

The minutes can be seen on the Genealogy and Local History Section page on the IFLA website. The standing committee also reviewed each item in the strategic plan during a spring discussion via e-mail.

Section Review

The Professional Committee recommended new divisions for IFLA this year. The committee originally recommended that GENLOC be in the Library Types Division. We recommend moving GENLOC to the Library Materials & Services Division instead. This was approved, and our section has been moved to this division, that may end up being called Library Collections



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Membership drive

One important goal of the section is to get more members in order to continue as a section committee. We were pleased that the Professional Committee reduced the minimum number of members from 50 to 40. After contacting hundreds of libraries with a written invitation, we believe the best approach is still through personal contact.

Working with FAIFE on Record Access and Data Privacy Resolution

Our section has been working closely with FAIFE to produce a resolution on records access and data privacy that will be presented to Council for a vote of acceptance in Quebec.

Committee Leadership Change

Mel Thatcher ended his eight-year term as section chair. Mel represented the section very well and kept the committee moving forward. The standing committee members honored Mel at a dinner in Durban for his tremendous work and wonderful accomplishments.

Communication

Elizabeth Melrose continues to produce excellent newsletters. Copies of the newsletters are available on the IFLANet page.

GENLOC

Unfortunately we still have not succeeded in making GENLOC our listserv into a discussion forum, but we use the listserv to send information from the section, our minutes, newsletter etc.

Publication of conference papers

The section decided to compile and publish the conference papers from 2001 to 2005. Elizabeth Melrose and Ruth Hedegaard became editors and had the sometimes hard work of getting the papers from the authors and editing them into the same format. Several standing committee members helped with proofreading, and the manuscript was handed over to IFLA headquarter at the conference in Durban. The manuscript is now sent to K.G. Saur Verlag for publication and will be published in the first half of 2008.

Survey

The section is continuing to survey genealogical sources in national libraries and national archives through the following questionnaire.

http://www.llgc.org.uk/ifla/holiadur_ifla.htm

The response to date has been good, and the information collated has been very useful in assisting our membership and publicity drives. Relevant institutions can still respond to the questionnaire, as it will remain on IFLANET for the foreseeable future.



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Quebec 2008 Preconference

The Section is planning a joint pre-conference satellite meeting in Ottawa, Canada, before the 2008 IFLA Conference in Quebec. The theme is “Genealogy and local history for all – focus on family and local history collection and reference services for multi-cultural communities.” Janet Tomkins is liaising with GENLOC Standing Committee member Antonio Lechasseur from Library and Archives Canada, and with colleagues in the IFLA Reference Section.

Open Session

The theme for the open session is “Access to Genealogical Records: Data Protection versus Unlocking the Records.” GENLOC will hold a joint session with FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression). Janice MacFarlane is organizing the session with Paul Sturges from FAIFE.

Study Tour

The section is planning a study tour to Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site in Québec which is the Canadian equivalent of New York’s Ellis Island. Grosse Île was a quarantine station from 1832 to 1937.

January

Prepared by Russell Lynch

Secretary of Genealogy and Local History Section